

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

August 17, 2022 Minutes

MEETING DETAILS	
Date and time:	August 17, 2022, 10 am
Venue:	Virtual through Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Eli Bouldin-Clopton (On Our Own Charlottesville); Patrice Beard (Parent and Partnership for People with Disabilities); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Jenny Sappington (MHAV); Heather Pate (Robin's Hope); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Katharine Hunter (DBHDS); Justin Wallace (Suicide Prevention at VDH); Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Duke Burruss (Citizen Advocate); Kristinne Stone (DOE); Jeff Van Arnam (DBHDS); Donna Bonessi (DARS); Dreamel Spady (Private Provider); Patricia Parham (DOC); Shatada Floyd-White (Private Provider); Cristy Corbin (FSPVA); Mary Ottinot (Parent, Advocate with Lived Experience and MH Professional);
Guest(s)	Sandra Nichols (Provider) and Cristy Corbin (FSPVA)
Unexcused Absences	Katharyn Clark (SAARA);
Excused Absences	Bruce Cruser (Treasurer, MHAV), Adam Creveling (DMAS); Nick Pappas
Minutes Taken By	Heather Pate
Presiding Officer	Eli Bouldin-Clopton, President
Order Called	Council convened at 10:00 AM

Quorum **was** present in today's meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out of 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from all with introductions and ice breaker. 	

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
	Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice Beard made a motion to approve the June minutes. Heather Orrock seconded that motion. The council voted to approve the minutes. OUTCOME: The June meeting minutes were approved	
	Treasurer's Report:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eli reported for Bruce Crusier that the BHAC now has a balance of \$19,243. Because the council has not been meeting in person, it has not had any new expenses. 	
	DBHDS/Block Grant Mini-Application		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached the time of year for the annual discussion of what we want to include in our letter to the DBHDS Commissioner attached to the Mini-Application. 	Nathanael Rudney and Executive Committee follow up

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is reviewed by SAMHSA and the Commissioner responds to some of the request. We have a broader advisory capacity to comment on the entire mental health plan. We can comment on initiatives we want to see in the next year regarding behavioral health. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Concerns and discussion raised:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The peer reimbursement rate has been increased but the reality is that the reimbursement rate continues to be too low which limits providers employing peers without grant funds that supplement the reimbursement for services. Even with recent legislation, barrier crimes present a challenge for employing peers in the behavioral health workforce and there is no timetable for when a waiver process may be fully implemented. Behavioral Health Accountability and Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a consumer perspective, it appears there is very limited functional oversight or compliance efforts for local community behavioral health services, possibly due to workforce challenges, ongoing systemic disorganization, or lack of perspective from people with lived experience in decision-making. While accountability is identified as a challenge, it seems as though oversight is often provided in the form of increased regulations and forms for local providers rather than direct technical assistance. This can lead to increased difficulties for individuals in the behavioral health workforce to do their jobs effectively. Another concern related to oversight is a lack of accessible outcome-focused data which should drive solutions to behavioral health challenges for populations with the highest health disparities. These data tools in some cases do not seem to exist or are not made publicly available or presented accessibly. Hospitals 	<p>on the letter to the Commissioner.</p>

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The concern has been expressed in previous BHAC meetings regarding workforce shortages, particularly in state hospitals, as well as significant challenges with overcrowding and lack of effective discharge planning. <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize block grant or general funds to find creative ways to incentivize joining the CSB and state hospital workforce including bonuses, cost of living increases, relocation assistance, etc. • Support and work with DMAS to increase the reimbursement pay rate for the peer workforce. • DBHDS should support increased investment in not just peer services but also specifically family support partners and youth support partners. • DBHDS should provide its support regarding increases and improvements to permanent supportive housing as a means to also reduce the hospital census. Homelessness has a significant relationship to chronic hospitalization. • Increase functional oversight and technical assistance for public community behavioral health services. • DBHDS should support a system paradigm shift to recovery-oriented systems of care model as opposed to existing medical model. This would better implement person-centered and strength-based work towards measurable self-identified outcomes. • Mary mentioned to look at ways to write in stipends and other ways to encourage lived experience to be present in this space. Unable to report the problems when Human Rights contacts hang up on you. What do you do about that? It's the first line of help and it doesn't work. Different levels of oversight are just not happening. These are health and safety concerns and ways we could lose funding. <p>Letter is due September 1, 2022</p>	

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		<p>Outcome: A draft sent out for review by August 19, 2022. An email will be sent out for any other items that need to be added. All of this will be collected, added to the letter, and finalized by the Executive Committee.</p>	
Executive Committee Report:			
		<p><u>Strategic Planning Process:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eli, Patrice, Bruce, Nathanael, and Heather met with Cheryl Grace Wright. • Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for the whole day on October 19, 2022 virtually 9am-4 or 5pm. Please mark this day out so that you can attend. • Come with an open mind, a willingness to do the work, expectation that all will participate, and an attitude to take on that work. • Participate as much as possible. • Meet one day, take a few days away, and come back for another full day. 	
Membership Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Membership Committee recommended the BHAC to approve the membership of Sandra Nichols. She has submitted a membership application. Sandra is a Mental Health Professional, was on the Florida Board of Nursing for 3 years and practiced in multiple states. She is a Program Director for PMHNP with a private practice in Virginia Beach. She's looking forward to working with those who are active in making mental health in Virginia and beyond. She would love to play an active role. • The Membership Committee recommended the BHAC to approve the membership of Cristy Corbin. She has submitted a membership application. Cristy represents a parent of a child with mental health. She's been a member with BHAC in previous years. Her focus is primarily peer support for families in Virginia. She is the CEO of Virginia Peer Support Specialists (Family Support Partners of Virginia) <p><u>Approval of a new Member Sandra Nichols:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership made the motion to approve Sandra as new member. • Heather Pate seconded that motion. 	<p>OUTCOME: The council approved membership for</p>

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		<p>OUTCOME: The motion was approved.</p> <p><u>Approval of new Member Cristy Corbin:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership made the motion to approve Cristy as new member. • Heather Pate seconded that motion. <p>OUTCOME: The motion was approved. Welcome Aboard!</p>	Sandra Nichols and Cristy Corbin
	DBHDS Report:		
		?	
	Block Grant Report:		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Block Grant Committee Meeting Minutes July 20, 2022 10:00 am</p> <p>Members in Attendance: Hilary Piland, Nathanael Rudney Nathanael shared that there won't be a lot for the council to comment on since this is the year for the mini block grant application. Next year will be the full block grant application. The BHAC will gather feedback from its members at the August meeting regarding the mini application for the block grant. This feedback from council members will be used to create the letter that will go with the mini block grant application, which will also go to Commissioner Smith.</p>	
Legislative Update:			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legislative report 	
Committee Reports:			
		<p>Membership Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please review and update the Membership Matrix and send back to Bruce Cruser by August 31, 2022. <p>Child and Youth Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katharine Hunter shared that May 5th is Children's MH Awareness Day. For that, DBHDS is planning a virtual panel on youth suicide prevention. It will be recorded and made available to the public on May 5th. For the BHAC's priority on MH needs in schools, the Children and Youth Committee is sending a survey to go to schools to inquire about crisis teams in schools. The Children and Youth Committee is trying to identify someone from the DCJS crisis teams to come speak to the Children and Youth Committee. <p>Adult and Elder Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing on a reset on what we would like to accomplish this year. We are going to narrow that down one item of our action plan so that we can see progress moving forward. <p>Bylaws Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duke reported for the committee - The board portal is a good idea for holding the documents. It's important to have an orientation over all the bylaws and documents. The bylaws need to be updated to meet our objectives. Please take time to review the bylaws along with the mission, vision, and objectives. All ideas are welcome. Recommendation of bringing in a consultant in the behavioral health field to work with us to update our bylaws. 	Patrice Beard & Heather Orrock

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
		<p style="text-align: center;">Bylaws and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes June 15, 2022 11:20 following the BHAC Meeting</p> <p>Members in Attendance: Duke Burrus and Bruce Crusier</p> <p>Duke thanked Bruce for joining the committee to be able to share his cultural, historical, and institutional insights that are key for reviewing and strengthening the BHAC bylaws and policy.</p> <p>Duke and Bruce shared related professional skills and experience.</p> <p>Duke shared initial observations of the Bylaws that stood out from a quick look:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission statement. First sentence to “advocate” for consumer driven system, • Article III, para 3. The council shall continuously monitor, evaluate, and review implementation of the state’s behavioral health plan, • Para 3.c. The plans impact on improving the quality of life for Virginia’s behavioral health consumers and their families, • Article IV. Membership representation, and • Article VI. Standing committees, para 7. Evaluation and Monitoring. <p>Bruce provided a brief history of the BHAC and evolution of the Bylaws, last revised in April 2019, emphasizing the foundational importance of the Bylaws to the work of the BHAC.</p> <p>Bruce indicated that he recently had the policy document scanned into an electronic PDF file. Duke indicated that he would review both to see where they aligned and to identify the gaps.</p> <p>Bruce offered to share the document soon. (Received June 17, 2022.)</p> <p>Outcome: Bruce will send electronic version of the Policy Manual to Duke</p> <p>Outcome: Duke will review the alignment of the Bylaws and Policy Manual.</p> <p>Meeting Schedule: The next Bylaws and Policy Committee meeting will be July 14 at 2:00 pm.</p>	

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	New Business:		
		No new business to report	
	Public Comment:		
		No public comments	
			Notes taken by Hilary Piland
		Meeting was adjourned at 11:40. The committees met after this meeting.	

Next Meeting(s):

October 19, 2022

Location of meeting: via Zoom**MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON _____**